

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A computer based method for retrieving information for use by a requestor application, comprising the steps of:
 - sending, by the requestor application, an information request to a master pivot program, the information request including document information related to a requested information document;
 - retrieving the document information from the information request;
 - retrieving document retrieval information from a configuration database as a function of the document information, the document retrieval information including a destination system;
 - sending the document retrieval information and the information request to a destination pivot program coupled to the destination system;
 - retrieving the requested information document from the destination system by the destination pivot program; and,
 - sending the requested information document to the requestor application.
2. A computer based method, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the information request is an extensible markup language document.
3. A computer based method, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the step of sending the information request to the master pivot program includes the step of calling an application program interface (API).
4. A computer based method, as set forth in claim 3, further including the step of creating, by the API, a structure of routing information.

5. A computer based method, as set forth in claim 4, wherein the step of sending the information request to the master pivot program includes the step of sending the information request to the master pivot program through a socket.

6. A computer based method, as set forth in claim 1, including the step receiving the document retrieval information and the information request by a master control interface (MCI) coupled to the destination pivot program, the master control interface being adapted to process the information request.

7. A computer based method, as set forth in claim 6, wherein the MCI includes a wrapper computer program application adapted to pass the information request from the MCI to the destination system.

8. A computer based method, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the configuration database is a relational database.

9. A computer based method, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the configuration database includes routing rules for a plurality of requestor applications and destination applications.

10. A computer based method, as set forth in claim 1, including the step of providing a configuration tool for maintaining the configuration database.

11. A computer based method for retrieving information for use by a requestor application, comprising the steps of:

sending, by the requestor application, an information request to a master pivot program, the information request being an extensible markup language (XML) document;

receiving the XML document by a master pivot program;

retrieving, by the master pivot program, dimensions from a configuration database as a function of the XML document;

retrieving a destination and a MCI command from the configuration database;

retrieving a requested information document from the destination in response to the MCI command; and,

sending the requested information document to the requestor application.

12. A computer based method, as set forth in claim 11, including the step of retrieving, by the master pivot program, a document type tag from the XML document and wherein the master pivot program retrieves the dimensions from the configuration database as a function of the document type tag.

13. A method, as set forth in claim 12, including the step of retrieving dimension values from the XML document.

14. A method, as set forth in claim 11, including the steps of :
executing the MCI command by a master control interface (MCI) located at the destination pivot program; and,

sending the XML document to the MCI, wherein the requested information document is determined by the MCI as a function of the MCI command and the XML document.

15. A method, as set forth in claim 11, wherein the step of sending the requested information document to the requestor application includes the steps of:

sending the requested information document, by the destination pivot program, to the master pivot program; and,

sending the requested information document, by the master pivot program, to the requestor application.

16. A computer based method, as set forth in claim 11, wherein the step of sending the information request to the master pivot program includes the step of calling an application program interface (API).

17. A computer based method, as set forth in claim 16, further including the step of creating, by the API, a structure of routing information.

18. A computer based method, as set forth in claim 17, wherein the step of sending the information request to the master pivot program includes the step of sending the information request to the master pivot program through a socket.

19. A computer based method, as set forth in claim 11, including the step receiving the document retrieval information and the information request by a master control interface (MCI) coupled to the destination pivot program, the master control interface being adapted to process the information request.

20. A computer based method, as set forth in claim 19, wherein the MCI includes a wrapper computer program application adapted to pass the information request from the MCI to the destination system.

21. A computer based method, as set forth in claim 11, wherein the configuration database is a relational database.

22. A computer based method, as set forth in claim 11, wherein the configuration database includes routing rules for a plurality of requestor applications and destination applications.

23. A computer based method, as set forth in claim 11, including the step of providing a configuration tool for maintaining the configuration database.

24. A computer based method for retrieving information for use by a requestor application, comprising the steps of:

- sending, by the requestor application, an information request to a master pivot program, the information request being an extensible markup language (XML) document;

- receiving the XML document by the master pivot program;

- retrieving, by the master pivot program, a document type tag from the XML document;

- retrieving, by the master pivot program, dimensions from a configuration database as a function of the document type tag;

- retrieving dimension values from the XML document;

- retrieving a destination and a MCI command from the configuration database;

- sending the MCI command to a destination pivot program located at the destination;

- executing the MCI command by a master control interface (MCI) located at the destination pivot program;

- sending the XML document to the MCI;

- sending a requested information document, by the MCI, to the destination pivot program as a function of the MCI command and the XML document;

- sending the requested information document, by the destination pivot program, to the master pivot program; and,

- sending the requested information document, by the master pivot program to the requestor application.

25. A computer based system for retrieving information for use by a requestor application, comprising:

a requestor application for generating an information request, the information request including document information related to a requested information document;

a configuration database containing document retrieval information; and,

a master pivot program, coupled to the requestor application and the configuration database, for receiving the information request, retrieving the document information from the information request, and retrieving document retrieval information for the requested information document from the configuration database as a function of the document information and for retrieving the requested information document from a destination system using the document retrieval information.

26. A computer based system, as set forth in claim 25, wherein the master pivot program is adapted to deliver the requested information document to the requestor application.

27. A computer based system, as set forth in claim 25, wherein the document retrieval information includes a destination and a master control interface command.

28. A computer based system, as set forth in claim 27, including a master control interface adapted to execute the master control interface command.

29. A computer based system, as set forth in claim 25, wherein the information request is in extensible markup language format.

30. A computer based system, as set forth in claim 25, including an application program interface (API), wherein the requestor application is adapted to call the API to send the information request to the master control interface.

31. A computer based system, as set forth in claim 30, including a structure of routine information created by the API.

32. A computer based system, as set forth in claim 31, including a socket coupled between the master pivot program and the requestor application.

33. A computer based system, as set forth in claim 25, including a master control interface (MCI) coupled to the destination pivot program, the MCI being adapted to receive the document retrieval information and the information request by and to process the information request.

34. A computer based system, as set forth in claim 33, wherein the MCI includes a wrapper computer program application adapted to pass the information request from the destination pivot program to the MCI.

35. A computer based system, as set forth in claim 25, wherein the configuration database is a relational database.

36. A computer based system, as set forth in claim 25, wherein the configuration database includes routing rules for a plurality of requestor applications and destination applications.

37. A computer based system, as set forth in claim 25, including a configuration tool for maintaining the configuration database.

38. A computer based system for retrieving information for use by a requestor application, comprising:

a requestor application for generating an information request, the information request being an extensible markup language (XML) document;

a configuration database containing document retrieval information; and,

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a master pivot program, coupled to the requestor application and the configuration database, for receiving the XML document, retrieving the document information from the information request, and retrieving dimensions, a destination and a MCI command from the configuration database as a function of the document information, for retrieving the requested information document from a destination system in response to the MCI using the document retrieval information, and for sending the requested information document to the requestor application.

39. A computer based system, as set forth in claim 38, wherein the master pivot program is adapted to retrieve a document type tag from the XML document and to retrieve the dimensions from the configuration database as a function of the document type tag.

40. A computer based system, as set forth in claim 39, wherein the master pivot program (308) is adapted to retrieve dimension values from the XML document.

41. A computer based system, as set forth in claim 38, including a master control interface (MCI) coupled to the destination pivot program, the MCI being adapted to execute the MCI command.

42. A computer based system, as set forth in claim 41, wherein the MCI determines the requested information document as a function of the MCI command and the XML document.

43. A computer based system, as set forth in claim 38, wherein the destination pivot program is adapted to send the requested information document to the master pivot program and the master pivot program is adapted to send the requested information document to the requestor application.

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44. A computer based system, as set forth in claim 38, including an application program interface (API) coupled to the requestor application, wherein the requestor application is adapted to call the API to send the information request to the master pivot program.

45. A computer based system, as set forth in claim 44, including a structure of routing information created by the API.

46. A computer based system, as set forth in claim 45, including a socket coupled to the master pivot program, wherein the requestor application is adapted to send the information request to the master pivot program through the socket.

47. A computer based system, as set forth in claim 38, including the step receiving the document retrieval information and the information request by a master control interface (MCI) coupled to the destination pivot program, the master control interface being adapted to process the information request.

48. A computer based system, as set forth in claim 47, including a wrapper computer program application adapted to pass the information request from the destination pivot program to the MCI.

49. A computer based system, as set forth in claim 38, wherein the configuration database is a relational database.

50. A computer based system, as set forth in claim 38, wherein the configuration database includes routing rules for a plurality of requestor applications and destination applications.

51. A computer based system for retrieving information for use by a requestor application, comprising:

a requestor application for generating an information request, the information request, the information request being an extensible markup language (XML) document;

a configuration database containing document retrieval information; and,

a master pivot program, coupled to the requestor application and the configuration database, for receiving the XML document and retrieving a document type tag from the XML document, for retrieving dimensions, a destination, and a MCI command from the configuration database as a function of the XML document, and for sending the MCI command to a destination pivot program located at the destination; and

a master control interface (MCI) located at the destination pivot program, the MCI being adapted to execute the MCI command, retrieve a requested information document as a function of the MCI command, and responsively send a requested information document to the destination pivot program, wherein the destination pivot program is adapted to send the requested information document to the master pivot program and the master pivot program is adapted to send the requested information document to the requestor application.

52. A computer program product for retrieving information for use by a requestor application, the computer readable program code comprising:

computer readable program code means for sending, by the requestor application, an information request to a master pivot program, the information request including document information related to a requested information document;

computer readable program code means for retrieving the document information from the information request;

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computer readable program code means for retrieving document retrieval information from a configuration database as a function of the document information;

computer readable program code means for retrieving the requested information document from a destination using the document retrieval information; and,

computer readable program code means for sending the requested information document to the requestor application.

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